Table A-1 BLM Visual Resource Management Classes and FS Scenic Integrity Objectives/Visual Quality Objectives

BLM Visual Resource Management Class

FS Scenic Integrity Objective

FS Visual Quality Objective

Class I:

This class provides primarily for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited activity. Any contrast created must not attract attention.

Very High:

Landscape character is intact with only minute if any deviations. The existing landscape character and sense of place is expressed at the highest level.

Preservation:

Allows ecological change only. Management activities are prohibited except for very low visually impacting recreation facilities.

Class II:

Changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) caused by a management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. Contrasts may be seen but should not attract attention.

High:

Landscape character appears intact.
Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such a scale that they are not evident.

Retention:

Management activities must not be visually evident to the casual forest visitor. Modifications must repeat form, line, color, and texture found in the surrounding natural landscape.

Class III:

Contrasts to the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) caused by a management activity may be evident and begin to attract attention in the characteristic landscape. Changes should remain subordinate to the existing characteristic landscape.

Moderate:

Landscape character appears slightly altered. Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed.

Partial Retention:

Modifications may be visually evident, but must be integrated into and visually subordinate to the surrounding landscape. Activities may introduce form, line, color, and texture not common in the surrounding landscape, but they should not attract attention.

BLM Visual Resource Management Class

FS Scenic Integrity Objective

FS Visual Quality Objective

Class IV:

Contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale; however, the change should repeat the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) inherent in the characteristic landscape.

Low:

Landscape character appears moderately altered. Deviations begin to dominate the valued landscape character being viewed, but they borrow valued attributes outside the landscape being viewed.

Modification:

Management activities may visually dominate the surrounding natural landscape; however, they must repeat the naturally established elements of form, line, color, and texture to appear compatible with the natural surroundings.

Very Low:

Landscape character appears heavily altered. Deviations may strongly dominate the valued landscape character. They ay not borrow from valued attributes outside the landscape being viewed, but must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain so that elements do not dominate the composition.

Maximum Modification:

Modifications may visually dominate the surrounding landscape, yet when viewed from background distance, activities may appear as natural occurrences within the landscape. Alterations in foreground and middleground views may be out of scale or introduce visual elements not found in the natural landscape.

Unacceptably Low:

Landscape character appears extremely altered. Deviations are extremely dominant and borrow little if any form, line, color, texture, pattern, or scale from the landscape character. Used to inventory existing integrity, not a management type.

Source: USDI, 1986; USDA, 1995

Table A-2 BLM Scenic Quality/ FS Scenic Attractivess/ FS Variety Class Descriptions

BLM Scenic Quality Classes	FS Scenic Attractiveness Classes	FS Variety Classes
Class A		·
Outstanding areas where characteristic features of landform, rock, water, and vegetation are distinctive or unique in the context of the surrounding region. These features exhibit considerable variety in form, line, color, and texture.	Areas where landform, vegetation patterns, water characteristics, and cultural features combine to provide unusual, unique, or outstanding scenic quality. These landscapes have strong positive attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony, uniqueness, pattern, and balance.	Areas where features of landform, vegetation patterns, water forms, and rock formations are of distinctive or unusual visual quality. These features exhibit considerable variety in form, line, color, and texture.
Class B		
Above average areas in which features provide variety in form, line, color, and texture and, although the combinations are not rare in the surrounding region, they provide sufficient visual diversity to be considered moderately distinctive.	Areas where landform, vegetation patterns, water characteristics, and cultural features use combine to provide ordinary or coon scenic quality. These landscapes have generally positive, yet coon, attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony, uniqueness, pattern, and balance. Normally they would for the basic matrix within the ecological unit.	Areas where features contain variety in form, line, color, and texture or combinations thereof, but which tend to be common throughout the character types and are not outstanding in visual quality.

Class C

Common areas where characteristic features have little variation in form, line, color, or texture in relation to the surrounding region.

Areas where landform, vegetation patterns, water characteristics, and cultural land use have low scenic quality. Often water and rockform of any consequence are missing in class C landscapes. These landscapes have weak or missing attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony, uniqueness, pattern, and balance.

Areas with very little or minimal variety, if any, in form, line, color, and texture.

Source: USDI, 1986; USDA, 1995

Table A-3 Scenic Quality Criteria

Rating Category	Description	
Landform	Topography becomes more interesting as it gets steeper, more massive, or more severely or universally sculptured. Outstanding landforms may be monumental, such as in the Grand Canyon in Arizona or the Rocky Mountains of the Western United States. Alternatively, landforms may be intricate and subtle such as certain badlands, pinnacles, arches, and other formations.	
Vegetation	Primary consideration is given to the variety of patterns, forms and textures created by plant life. Short - lived displays should be considered when they are known to be recurring or spectacular such as the color change from green to red - orange to gold displayed by contiguous groves of western aspen trees or eastern maple trees. Smaller scale vegetation features may add striking and intriguing detail to the landscape.	
Water	Water can add movement, serenity, and strong lighting contrasts to a scene. The degree to which water features have the capacity to unify, diversify, or dominate the scene is the primary consideration.	
Color	Overall colors are observed for the basic components of the landscape such as soil, rocks, and vegetation as they appear during seasons or periods of high use. Key factors to use when rating "color" are variety, contrast, and harmony.	
Adjacent Scenery	What is under consideration is the degree to which scenery outside the unit being rated enhances the overall impression of the scenery within the unit. The distance over which adjacent scenery will influence a unit will normally range from zero to five miles, depending upon the relief of the topography, upon vegetation cover, upon sun angles, and viewer orientation. This component is generally applied to units that would normally rate very low in score, but the influence of the adjacent unit enhances the visual quality thereby raising the rating score.	

Rating Category	Description
Scarcity	This component provides an opportunity to elevate the importance of one or of all scenic features within one physiographic region that appear to be unique or relatively rare within the surroundings.
Intactness	What is recorded for this component is evidence of discordant elements or deviations from the existing landscape character - thereby altering, diminishing or minimizing the indigenous aesthetic appeal for which the said landscape would primarily have been valued as a scenic resource. This component is also used to describe the condition of the ecosystem.
Cultural Modifications	Of primary concern are the impacts of man - made changes on the visual quality of the characteristic landscape. Cultural modifications to landform, water, and vegetation as well as the addition of structures to the landscape may all detract from the scenery by presenting negative intrusions to the viewer. Conversely, these additions or modifications to the landscape might actually complement or improve the scenic quality of a unit.
Ephemeral & Non - Visual Conditions	This component considers short - lived but recurrent visual effects such as wildlife sightings and non - visual effects such as the sound of running water which are experientially related to the landscape being viewed.

Table A-4 Scenic Quality Inventory and Evaluation Chart

Rating Category	Rating Criteria and Score			
Landforms	High vertical relief as expressed in prominent cliffs, spires, or massive rock outcrops; or severe surface variation or highly eroded formations including major badlands or dune systems; or detail features dominant and exceptionally striking and intriguing such as glaciers.	Steep canyons, mesas, buttes, cinder cones, and drumlins; or interesting Eros ional patterns or variety in size and shape of landforms; or detail features which are interesting though not dominant or exceptional.		
Landform Score	5	3	1	
Vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as expressed in interesting forms, texture, and patterns.	Some variety of vegetation, but only one or two major types.	Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation	
Vegetation Score	5	3	1	
Water	Clear and clean appearing, still or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape.	Flowing, or still, but not dominant in the landscape.	Absent, or presents, but not noticeable	

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Water Score	5	3	0
Color	Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snowfields.	Some intensity or variety in colors and contrast of soil, rock, and vegetation, but not a dominant scenic element.	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally mute tones.
Color Score	5	3	1
Adjacent Scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality.	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality.	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on over all visual quality.
Adjacent Scenery Score	5	3	0
Scarcity	One of a kind; or unusually memorable, or very rare within region. Consistent chance for exceptional wildlife or wildflower viewing, etc.	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to others within the region.	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region.
Scarcity Score	5	3	0

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Intactness	Entire character not compromised by external intrusions.	Some deviations from existing character.	Many discordant elements present. Aesthetic appeal is compromised	
Intactness Score	5	3	1	
Cultural Modifications	Modifications add favorably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony.	Modifications add little or no visual variety to the area, and introduce few discordant elements.	Modifications add variety but are very discordant and promote strong disharmony.	
Cultural Modifications Score	2	0	- 4	
Ephemeral & Non - Visual Conditions	Frequent wildlife sightings, many natural sounds present.	Occasional wildlife sighting and natural sounds present.	Both wildlife and natural sounds are not present. Some distant urban noise.	
Ephemeral & Non - Visual Score	5	3	1	

Table A-5 Visual Integrity Criteria

Rating Category	Description
Landscape Pattern	An interrelationship of land uses and their typical visual appearance is the primary focus. The secondary focus of landscape pattern is the spatial relationships between structural and functional elements of the land. Any type of landscape at any scale can be described as a mosaic: a background of matrix and patches connected by corridors. For instance, a matrix can be uniform to fragmented, continuous to perforated, and aggregated to dispersed. Patches can vary from large to small, elongated to round, and convoluted to smooth. Corridors vary from wide to narrow, and meandering to straight. The edges that separate these spatial elements also vary widely in shape and dimension.
Vegetation	Primary consideration is given to the variety of patterns, forms and textures created by plant life. Short - lived displays should be considered when they are known to be recurring or spectacular such as the color change from green to red - orange to gold displayed by contiguous groves of western aspen trees or eastern maple trees. Smaller scale vegetation features may add striking and intriguing detail to the landscape.
Water	Water can add movement, serenity, and strong lighting contrasts to a scene. The degree to which water features have the capacity to unify, diversify, or dominate the scene is the primary consideration.
Color	Overall colors are observed for the basic components of the landscape such as soil, rocks, and vegetation as they appear during seasons or periods of high use. Key factors to use when rating "color" are variety, contrast, and harmony.

Adjacent Scenery	What is under consideration is the degree to which scenery outside the unit being rated enhances the overall impression of the scenery within the unit. The distance over which adjacent scenery will influence a unit will normally range from zero to five miles, depending upon the relief of the topography, upon vegetation cover, upon sun angles, and viewer orientation. This component is generally applied to units that would normally rate very low in score, but the influence of the adjacent unit enhances the visual quality thereby raising the rating score.
Scarcity	This component provides an opportunity to elevate the importance of one or of all visual integrity features within one physiographic region that appear to be unique or relatively rare within the surroundings.
Intactness	What is recorded for this component is evidence of discordant elements or deviations from the existing landscape character - thereby altering, diminishing or minimizing the indigenous aesthetic appeal for which the said landscape would primarily have been valued as a scenic resource. This component is also used to describe the condition of the ecosystem.
Architectural Elements	Architectural elements describe the form, structure, and interrelationships among the building - block elements of the system. The condition of the building system is also considered.
Ephemeral & Non - Visual Conditions	This component considers short - lived but recurrent visual effects, e.g., intense human activity centers, and non - visual effects such as the sound of running water which are experientially related to the landscape being viewed.

Table A-6 Visual Integrity Inventory and Evaluation Chart

Key Factors	Rating Criteria and Score			
Land Use / Development Pattern	Excellent arrangement of forms that complement each other.	Some spatial harmony exists.	Many discordant elements present.	
Landform Score	5	3	1	
Vegetation	A variety of vegetative types as sc expressed in interesting forms, ve texture, and patterns. or		Little or no variety or contrast in vegetation	
Vegetation Score 5		3	1	
Water	Clear and clean appearing, still or cascading white water, any of which are a dominant factor in the landscape.		Absent, or present, but not noticeable	
Water Score 5		3	0	
Rich color combinations, variety or vivid color; or pleasing contrasts in the soil, rock, vegetation, water or snowfields.		Some intensity or variety in colors of land uses and architectural elements, contrasts in color of the soil, rock, vegetation,	Subtle color variations, contrast, or interest; generally mute tones.	

Color Score	5	3	1
Adjacent Scenery	Adjacent scenery greatly enhances visual quality.	Adjacent scenery moderately enhances overall visual quality.	Adjacent scenery has little or no influence on over all visual quality.
Adjacent Scenery Score	5	3	0
Scarcity	One of a kind, or unusually memorable, or very rare within region.	Distinctive, though somewhat similar to other areas or neighborhoods within the region.	Interesting within its setting, but fairly common within the region.
Scarcity Score	5	3	1
Intactness	Entire character uncompromised by external intrusions.	Some deviations from existing character.	Many discordant elements present. Aesthetic appeal is compromised
Intactness Score	5	3 0	
Architectural & Landscape Elements	Architecture, landscaping, development, and land uses add considerably to visual variety while promoting visual harmony.	Land uses and developed areas add little visual variety to the area, and introduce some discordant elements.	Land uses and developed areas add no visual variety, are discordant, or promote strong disharmony.

Architectural & Landscape Elements Score	5	3	1
Ephemeral & Non - Visual Conditions	Sights and sounds of the community or area add to the character of the area.	Character of the area unaffected by or somewhat detracted fro by sights and sounds.	Sights and sounds detract strongly and promote disharmony.
Ephemeral & Non - Visual Conditions Score	5	3	1

Table A-7 Scenic Quality and Visual Integrity Classes

Scenic Quality

Class A or Distinctive:
Outstanding areas where
characteristic features of landform,
rock, water, and vegetation are
distinctive or unique in the context of
the surrounding areas. These features
exhibit considerable variety in form,
line, color, and texture and have
strong positive attributes of unity and
intactness. A score of 25 points or
more, as tallied on an individual field
inventory sheet, resulted in a
distinctive rating.

Visual Integrity

Class A or Unique / Cohesive:
Developed areas where the
landscape appears intact,
interesting, and cohesive. The
characteristic elements of line, form,
color, and texture hold the
developed features and landscape
together into distinctive areas,
landscapes, or neighborhoods.
Colors and textures are often seen
repeated in these landscapes.
Developments and land uses do not
contrast with each other or with the
landscape.

Class B or Above Average:
Above average areas in which
features provide variety in form, line,
color, and texture. And although the
landscape elements may not be rare
in the region, they provide sufficient
visual diversity to be considered
moderately distinctive. These features
exhibit more common variety in form,
line, color, texture, and have positive,
yet more common attributes of unity
and intactness. The score of 18 to 24
points, as tallied from an individual
field inventory sheet, resulted in an
Above Average rating.

Class B or Above Average:
Developed areas where the
landscape is less unique, interesting,
and cohesive. Patterns of land use
and materials used in structures are
varied and different colors. The
sense of a cohesive place or
neighborhood is not as strong in
these landscapes. Colors and
textures are not often seen repeated
in these areas.

Class C or Common: Common to minimal areas are those where characteristic features have moderate to little variety in form, line, color, and texture in relation to the surrounding region. The score of 17 points or less, as tallied from an individual field inventory sheet, resulted in a Common rating.

Class C or Representative:
Developed areas that appear
heavily altered, do not form a sense
of place or neighborhood, and are
not visually cohesive. The elements
of line, form, color, and texture are
not often repeated in a cohesive
manner. Developments and land
uses are diverse and contrast with
each other and with the landscape.

Table A-8 Sensitive Viewpoints

MONTANA

Viewpoint	User Type/ Attitude	View Duration	Use Volume	Visual Sensitivity	Comments
Residences	High	Long	Low	High	Cities, Towns, Unincorporated Communities, and Residential Clusters
Communities	High	Long	High	High	Cities, Towns, Unincorporated Communities, and Residential Clusters
Travel Corridor					
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Scenic Concern Level One Routes	n/a	n/a	n/a	High	Roadways within Beaverhead- Deerlodge National Forest designated by the Beaverhead- Deerlodge National Forest 2005 Draft Forest Plan as Scenic Concern Level Two Routes
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Scenic Concern Level Two Routes	n/a	n/a	n/a	Moderate	
Anaconda-Pintler Scenic Highway	High	Moderate	Low	High	
Big Sheep Creek - Medicine Lodge Back Country Byway	High	Moderate	Low	High	

MDT Rest Areas		Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate	
Parks and Recreation						
State Parks	Anaconda Smoke Stack	Moderate	Long	Moderate	High	High level of disturbance in the landscape.
	All Other Montana State Parks	High	Long	Moderate		
Wilderness Study Areas		High	Long	Low	High	
Wild and Scenic Eligible Rivers		High	Long	Low	High	
Class I and II Fisheries		Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate	
Boat Access Sites		Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Beaverhead Rock	Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate	Historic Petroglyphs mentioned in the journals of Lewis and Clark
	Block Mountain	Moderate	Long	Low	High	Exceptional fold and thrust belt structures for teaching geological field mapping.

	Centennial Mountains	High	Long	Low	High	Habitat for grizzly bear, lynx, and wolf; use as a wildlife migration area; outstanding scenic value; and only occurrence in Montana of Whipple's beardtongue
	Muddy Creek / Big Sheep Creek	High	Long	Low		Scenic and cultural resource values including pictograph and rock sites.
State Wildlife Management Areas		Low	Long	Low	Low	Moderate
Public Campgrounds	Toston Dam Camping Units	Moderate	Long	Low	High	Camping units at Dam Site
and Picnic Areas	All Other Public Campgrounds and Picnic Areas	High	Long	Low		
BLM Interpretive Sites		High	Long	Low	High	
Camp Fortunate Overlook		High	Long	Moderate	High	
Humbug Spires Primitive Area		High	Long	Low	High	
Sportmans Access Sites		Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate	High

City Parks	Thompson Park	High	Long	Moderate	Moderate	Designated city park within the national forest - Concern Level One site per the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest 2005 Draft Forest Plan
	All Other City Parks	Moderate	Long	Moderate		
The Nature Conservancy - Sixteenmile Creek Macrosite		Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate	Moderate
	Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail	Moderate	Long	Low	High	
Trails	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail	High	Long	Low	Moderate	
	ORV Designated Trailheads	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High	
	Non-ORV Designated Trailheads	High	Long	Low	High	

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Туре	Viewpoint	User Type/ Attitude	View Duration	Use Volume	Visual Sensitivity	Comments	
Residences		High	Long	Low	High	Cities, Towns, Unincorporated Communities, and Residential Clusters	
Communities		High	Long	High	High	Cities, Towns, Unincorporated Communities, and Residential Clusters	
Travel Corrido	ors						
Sacajawea Historic Byway		Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate		
Lost Gold Trails Scenic Loop		High	Moderate	Low	High		
Sawtooth Scenic Byway		High	Moderate	Low	High	Hwy 93, Hwy 20, and Hwy 75 designated as Scenic Corridors by Blaine County Code and Coprehensive Plan	
County Designated Scenic Corridors		High	Moderate	High	High		

ITD Rest Areas	Moderate	Moderate	High	Moderate			
Parks and Recreation							
Massacre Rocks State Park	High	Long	Moderate	High			
Wilderness Study Areas	High	Long	Low	High			
Fishing Access Sites	Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate			
Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate			
State Wildlife Management Areas	Low	Long	Low	Low			
Research Natural Areas	Low	Long	Low	Low			
Craters of the Moon Wilderness	High	Long	Low	High			
National Natural Landmarks	High	Long	Low	High			
National Wildlife Refuges	Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate			

Campsites and Picnic Areas		High	Long	Low	High	
Sportmans Access Sites		Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate	
City Parks	City Parks		Long	Moderate	Moderate	
Craters of the Moon National Monument		High	Long	Moderate	High	High
	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail	High	Long	Low	Moderate	
Trails	Goodale's Cutoff Historic Trail	Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate	
	Nez Perce National Historic Trail	Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate	
	Oregon Trail	Moderate	Long	Low	Moderate	
	ORV Designated Trailheads	Moderate	Moderate	Low	High	
	Non-ORV Designated Trailheads	High	Long	Low	High	